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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I regret that some one was not selected better qualified than I am to address you on this occasion. Though born in the country among farmers, and accustomed when a lad to rural life, yet my business has not been that of talling the soil, of handling the axe, or guiding the plough. I trust, therefore, that I may crave your indulgence on this occasion for the want of practical knowledge which must characterize what I shall have to say. No one, however, estimates more highly than I do the great interest of agriculture, or that of the mechanic arts, without whose aid the former would languish and soon cease to exist. Engaged myself more or less in mechanical pursuitsin an art, which, whether fine or coarse, or whether the "black art" or not, as it has been called, has nevertheless been the means of some light to the world -I trust I may claim a seat in your councils and an humble voice in your deliberations for the improvement of agriculture and the advancement of mechanical knowledge and skill.

These exhibitions, ladies and gentlemen, though for a long period a part of the customs of the old world, are comparatively of modern existence with us. There they result from a spirit of traffic, the love of gain, and the necessities which sharp competition engenders, quite as much as from a laudable disposition to exhibit the products of the farm and the results of mechanical and artistic skill. In the old world every square yard of ground is tasked to the uttermost to sustain human life and to maintain and magnify the higher orders, who for the most part possess the lands. But with us it is different. Here we have no distinctions except those based on merit and virtue; and here, nearly every farmer is or may be an owner of the soil. And so prolific generally is that soil, and so easily does it sustain human life, that instead of being tasked, it is neglected; and the exhibitions made by us on occasions of this kind are more for friendly neighborly comparison, from a desire to excel, and from considerations of State and County pride, than from any wish to traffic and sell, and realize money. Not that self-interest should be disregarded at times like these, or on other proper occasions; for self interest is one of the mainsprings of human action, and when justly regulated, is of signal benefit to mankind.

County Fairs and State Fairs are beneficial in many

respects. They bring together, in comparison and competition, the fruits of the earth, the fabrics of the manufacturer, and the handiwork of the mechanic and the artisan. But, after all, our best productions are our men and women; and on an autumnal holiday like this, persons of all callings and conditions are assembled, who learn to know each other better, who take notice of the improvements which they see around them, who think more than heretofore and to a better purpose, from a desire themselves to make improvements and to excel; and who, from this intercourse with each other, and from witnessing the practical evidences of the resources and capabilities of their Counties and their State, are inspired with a deeper interest in the general welfare, and with a stronger, a loftier, and a more fervent revent regard for the glorious land in which it has pleased Providence to cast their lot. These autumnal gatherings are enlivened also by the presence of the fair daughters of the country, who come with the works of their fingers and the products of their household thoughts and domestic skill, to add grace and life to the scene-to mingle what is beautiful with what is useful-and to remind us all, that though the earth may yield its increase, and the ingenuity of man may fabricate for utility and adornment, still without woman, our best productions and our highest achievements in art and science would be devoid of enjoyment and satisfaction.

The earth, though it may be exhausted for a time by misdirected and injudicious culture, was not made to wear out. Since our first parents were placed in the garden of Eden, to "dress and to keep it," our race has increased to one thousand millions of individuals. These must all have bread, and many of them will have the luxuries of life. If the earth had not been susceptible of improvement, or at least of restoration to its original fertility, vast portions of our race would long since have perished It is our duty, as it is our chief business, to "dress" the earth and to "keep it." The divine command. "in the sweat of thy brow shalt thou cat bread all the days of thy life," was a blessing in disguise .-Labor was imposed upon man as the penalty of his first great transgression ; but as the Infinite Mind is constantly bringing good out of evil, and light out of darkness, so labor has been the great law by which man has been exalted to his true destiny—the earth made to teem with plenty and beauty, and the very ocean to be whitened with the evidences of his genius, benevolence, and enterprize. Labor, in whatever calling, is the motive power of civilization, of the arts and sciences, which add grace and dignity to human life, and of all valuable social progress .-Let no one be ashamed of labor. Let no man be ashamed of a hard band or a sunburnt face. Honest industry is at once the support and the pride of the State. Arrest it-let it cease on all the earth. and not merely decay, but the stagnation and the torpor of death would ensue. The earth labors in its course, bringing day and night, and the admirable and pleasant succession of the seasons; the stars that look down upon us labor and sing in their eternal fields of space; and the great God himself, having in six days created the heavens and the earth, ' rested on the seventh day."

"Six days shalt thou labor"-not six days mayest thou labor-is the divine command. It is imperative. And for my part I never meet a laboring man, imbrowned by toil, or pale from intellectual effort, without warming towards him as to one who constantly unites duty with advantage, and who finds his highest and his purest happiness in the observance of this great command.

Yet no one, my friends, labors from the mere love of it. We are naturally indolent beings. We labor to produce in the first place what will supply our wants; next, from a laudable pride to add to and improve what we already have; and then to gain that which engages our fancy or our wish, whatsoever it may be, and which we have not, by the sale of that which we have. Hence, traffic and commerce. The farmer produces, the manufacturer fabricates, and the merchant purchases to sell. But how can the farmer sell without a market? There st be a demand, and there must be a market-a point to which he can carry his surplus products for sale, and, disposing of them, realize a profit on his labors, or the stimulus to make a surplus to supply others who are in need, is wanting. Means of trans-portation must be afforded, the cheaper and the more rapid the better; and the merchant and the mechanic must also come to his aid. Thus and so nunerous are the ramifications of industrial pursuits. mutually dependent, and all dependent in the end on the soil, out of which come all wealth and all living creatures. Every interest being thus dependent on the soil, the importance of the calling of the farmer cannot be overestimated or overstated. The earth has been placed in his keeping, and he is mainly responsible for its improvement. It is not naturally prone to decay, nor can the elements of fertility be destroyed, for matter is as indestructible as mind. By a knowledge of the laws of nature, and by their application, every spot of ground upon the globe can be made to contribute in some way to sustain life or cheer man. Science is nature explained -the result of discoveries, of actual experiments, made by those who have preceded us. We know,

ditching, draining, fallowing and manuring lands, o certain crops put in and turned under as fertilizer of light and heat in ripening fruits and maturing grains; and we see, though we may not be able to explain the cause, how the grass assumes a richer green, and all vegetation starts into new life under favoring showers and a genial sun. Science explains all this in its own peculiar language; and, like all other sciences, those which treat of the atmosphere, of the nature of soils, and the constituents of plants, must be studied to be understood. We must not reject the experience nor ignore the discoveries of those who have gone before us. Many of the articles-the staples which make up our commerce, have been improved and brought to perfection by patient study and cultivation, by attention to the laws of nature, and by the use of the best means for maturing these staples. Indian corn, the potato, and tobacco, are the indigenous, the native growth of America; but under the careful hand of the white man they have been greatly improved. Wheat, rye, oats, and barley have been cultivated thousands of years; yet they were once in a wild state, and have been made what they are by the care of man. The same is true as to the apple and many other fruits. The importance of suitableness of climate and soil to certain forms of vegetable life, and of attention to the laws of nature as explained by science, is forcibly shown in the cultivation of cotton. This staple was also found indigenous in America, but is cultivated not only here, but in the Indies and in Egypt. France and England have made great and persistent efforts to compete with the Southern United States in the production of cotton, but have signally failed, because the climate is against them. Cotton, which produces a staple worth gathering, must be an annual and not a perennial plant; and test after test has shown that the annual plant will not stand the extremes of drought and rain common to inter tropical latitudes. It flourishes best, and arrives at perfection only, in quantity and quality, in the Southern States, where rain and sunshine alternate, and where labor can be commanded at the proper times to make and saveit. The theory is, that "the water of the Mexican Gulf, heated by the rays of a tropical sun, causes an immense evaporation, which, in expard ng or drifting North, or towards the elevated lands east and west of the Mississippi, is condensed by cold air at d produces frequent showers during the warm months of spring and summer, and which is the life of the cotton plants. A similar process takes place along the Southern Atlantic States. The evaporation from the Gulf is condensed by the cooler air of the Alleghanies. Thus we have an immense region of cotton lands, over which is established the most wonderful system of irrigation known in the world, combined with the proper amount of heat and richness of soil." This is the theory given by an able writer; but whether correct or not, we of the South are quite content with the results. The laws of nature are in our favor. We have taken advantage of those laws-we have relied upon nature; and science, based upon the reason of things in the material world, has sustained us and told us why; and we have also used the right kind of labor-slave labor; and therefore "Cotton is King," and tobacco and indian corn, also natives of America, are his min-

I shall not attempt, gentlemen, any thing like an essay on agricultural chemistry, geology, the nature of soils, or the constituents and habits of plants.-Neither shall I attempt to advise you as to the best modes of farming. Every one is presumed to know his own business best. You know better than I do how to clear, ditch and drain land-how to cultivate it, and what to cultivate and what to pasture-what crops to put in, and the best modes of making, maturing and gathering them. But a word or two on plants, the nature of soils, and agricultural chemistry, may not be entirely useless.

"A knowledge of vegetable physiology," says a learned writer, "and of the enormous quantity of moisture which plants perspire insensibly from their leaves, would have wholly prevented the very common error that weeds preserved moisture in the earth, and shade contiguous plants from the effects of drought, while in fact every weed is an outlet through which moisture as well as nourishment is rapidly drained from the soil. An acquaintance with the principles of botany would have prevented the prevalence of the equally pernicious notion that the weed so common in wheat called chess, could ever be transmuted or changed to wheat, which is a plant of a different genus. Were the vital importance of the leaves to the health and perfection of the seeds of plants properly understood, the practice of topping corn would never have been resorted to. "-The leaves of trees and plants are their lungs, and just as necessary to their existence as lungs are to animal life. Again, says this writer, "the knowledge of the organic constituents of plants, composed of various combinations of the four elements of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen, may afford some very useful suggestions in practice. By knowing, for instance, the proportions of these constituents, we can arrive at a comparative value of different kinds of grain. Analysis shows that some vegetable products contain more starch than others; some abound in gluten; some contain a large portion of oily matter. Now, these various ingredients are adapted some to one object, and some to another. If, for instance, in feeding animals, it is intended to fatten them, those grains would be pointed out as best which most largely contain oil; if to make them grow in flesh and muscular parts, those which abound in gluten; if the object is to make a cow yield butter, food containing oily matter should be given; if to yield cheese, beans, peas and clover should be given; and if milk in quantity merely, succulent or juicy food should be employed. The analysis of plants will also show what plants are best to employ as fertilizers by ploughing them in as a green crop. A considerable portion of nitrogen, for example, is essential to the growth of wheat. Ulover is found to contain a large portion of this element; hence a crop of clover becomes eminently useful as a manure for this grain. Wheat abstracts its nitrogen chiefly from the soil, and is consequently exhausing; clover obtains it most from the air, and is not exhausting, but becomes in this way the provider for the wheat." It has also been shown that "in addition to the usual organic elements, there are about ten organic or earthy constituents, most of which are invariably found in the same species of plants, and are indispensable to their healthy growth. These are potash, soda, lime, magnesia, alumina, silica, iron, manganese, sulpher, phosphorus and chlorine. I'hese substances are derived by the plants from the soil; hence, a fertile soil must of course contain them .-Here the close relation between the constituents of plants and soils is at once obvious. Hence, soils which are destitute of a part of these ingredients, or contain them in small proportions, must be poor or if they be destitute of one only, the same result must take place, if that one is an essential ingredient of the growing crop. And here it is that the great benefits to be derived from an analysis or examination of soils by the chemist, force themselves upon the mind. If a soil is barren, determine its constituents-see what is wanting-what is in excess; apply at once the deficient ingredient, or counteract or neutralize the injurious, and fertillity is re-

I have given these examples, gentlemen, to show now fixed and immutable are the principles of natural philosophy, and how the sciences which treat of nature-of the atmosphere, of soils, and of vegetable life-may be relied upon by the cultivators of the earth. I refer not to mere theory, or to arbitrary experiments, but to fixed principles-to established facts. We owe all our progress in agriculture to enlightened, and not to arbitrary experiments or accidental results. There must be, there is a reason for every thing; and after all, the best modern practices of agriculture are the results of long experience and patient attention on the part of the unlearned, as well as of the learned. Improvements in farming based upon science, upon the nature and reason of things, are highly desirable. Each improvement of this sort is a great principle, destined to exist, perhaps, as long as the globe we inhabit; but visionary experiments and novel modes of culture, crowned now and then with success, and commended through books and newspapers as infallible rules of husbandry, are not calculated to advance, but rather to hinder the successful cultivation of the earth. Our farmers, as a general rule, cannot afford to make experiments; and if they could, it would not be done on a sufficiently large or varied scale to be produc-tive of general benefit. Hence the importance of experimental farms, or an experimental farm, under the patronage and control of the State Society .-There are such farms in other States, and the result has been highly beneficial. Every one who profes

should speak from the reason of things and the true philosophy of nature. There are many who can talk most learnedly about chemistry, the nature of soils, the ingredients of plants, the constituents of the atmosphere, and the effects of light and heat, who have no practical knowledge of farming, and who would barely be able to subsist with a good force on the richest lands. It is practice which makes perfect in this as in every thing else. I know two farmers, one an educated man, a graduate of the University; the other unlettered, uneducated, but characterized by energy and sound common sense. They are among the best farmers and worthiest citizens of my acquaintance. I do not believe the graduate is superior in his modes of culture, or in the quantity and quality of his crops, to his uneducated neighbor-uneducated so far as books are concerned; though the graduate has brought to his aid much knowledge acquired at school and from books .-This is no argument, gentlemen, against science or against knowledge as essential to successful farming. I make the comparison to show what industry, and patience, and strong native sense may accomplish without the aid of learning. My unlettered friend has acquired his knowledge and his skill in farming by observation, by practice, by his own experience and the experience of those around him. He is a scientific farmer, without knowing by their names the rules of the science by which he succeeds; just as some persons write good English without knowing the rules of gran mar laid down in the books, and as some are accomplished soldiers without being familiar with the tactics of Scott or Wellington. And I know another farmer, who was bred a mechanic, a native of Connecticut. I doubt whether he ever read a book or a paper on farming; but he practices what he observed and learned when a boy in his native State, among a people who attained long since a high position as tillers of the soil. He reads his Bible and his hymn-book-puts his trust in the God of the atmosphere, the sun, and the showers-sows, labors, and reaps abundant crops. His farm is small, and was originally poor, consisting for the most part of light and gravelly, and what is called in his County, chinquepin land. Without slaves, with no horses, but with never less than three yoke of oxen, he has raised a large family on this farm, and now has a competency in his old age. There are no briars, no sprouts, no weeds in his fields, his fence-corners, or turning rows, but his farm looks like a garden, and his stock are fat and sleek. I have often when a boy been with him in his labors; and though a pious old Methodist, I have heard him whistling Yankee Doodle as he drove his team afield, because it reminded him, he said, of the New England hills among which he first heard it, and of Bunker Hill, where Putnam fought and Warren died. He is a Yankee. Would that there were many more such Yankees in this State and in all New England!

Agriculture is the safest and most pleasant of all pursuits. I can imagine no situation more desirable than that of the farmer, living on his own land, surrounded by his household and by his flocks and herds-independent, out of debt, relying on the earth and on nature for support and comfort, and laying by something at the end of each year for himself, for his children who are to take his place when he is gone, and for those worthy objects around him which have a claim on his attention, his sympathy or care. It is the patriarchal, the primitive condition, on which the smile of God immediately rests. It is the condition in which all good or all bad government begins. A government based on thrifty dangerous innovations, the allurements of luxury, and the wear of time. Such a man as I have described knows the laws only in their beneficence, not in their penalties or terrors. He is not afraid to see the sheriff, nor is he troubled by taxes, provided he is sure they are judiciously and properly applied. Banks and other corporations may suspend or failwhole cities may go down into the vortex of insolvency, and "trade's proud empires haste to swift decay;" but none of these things move him, save to curiosity or sympathy, provided he has been careful to put gold and silver in his till, or has secured, what is so abundant just now, the notes of sound specie-paying Banks. He finds out, if others do not, that the best bank after all is a bank of earth, and the best share a ploughshare."

The profits of the farmer may not be so large o so apparent as those of others, but they are sure. lis wealth increases while he sleeps. Day and night God's chemistry works for him in the silent clods. The sunshine, the atmosphere, the dews and frosts of night, and the revolutions of the seasons. all attend upon his labors and contribute to increase his store. It has been said, with equal beauty and

"The heart issues bills which are never protested, When drawn on the firm of wife, children, and friends.' But the farmer draws upon the earth, the common mother of us all, and of all animal and vegetable life; and the laws of nature, which never change, honor his drafts. He depends not upon the cold, but upon the warm earth, in whose bosom the seeds germinate, and upon whose surface the fruits mature and the flowers are born; and if he learns to "labor and to wait," he never waits in vain. Every time the farmer plants a fruit tree, or cuts a ditch, or builds a house which is needed, or paints or repairs those he already has; or improves his stock by judicious purchases and crossings; or renders his land, by whatever mode, more tillable and fertile; or improves the roads on and about his lands; or adds to his implements of husbandry-he is laying up solid treasures which will repay him, "some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold."

Too many of our young men are engaging, or seeking to engage, in mercantile and professional pursuits. Nearly every bright boy, after being educated, as the saying is, is put to a profession, or placed in some store as a clerk, or set up without experience in business as a merchant; while the dull boys, so called, are put to farming or aome mechanical trade. This is a great mistake, and one peculiar to the Southern country. Many of these bright young men, so called, fail in their professions or as merchants, and return to the farm, but at too late a period in life to succeed. Judgment is better than genius; and learning can be as honorably and profitably employed in cultivating the earth as in any thing else. The hard, rough struggles of life are, after all, the tests of endurance, of usefulness, of will, and of mind; and the dull young man often outstrips the bright one, laboring step by step up the hill of fame. Let us put our sone on farms as we put them to professions; say to them that is their dependence, and in nine cases out of ten they will succeed and prosper. Let them be their own over-

"He that by the plough would thrive, Must either hold himself, or drive."

No business can be successfully conducted for a series of years by agents. And for my part I despair of that young man who is above labor, and who considers farming beneath him. If too proud to farm -to manage his own hands and pitch his own crops, he will turn out to be too indolent to succeed in any thing. Why, the greatest and best men the world has ever contained were tillers of the soil, and worked with their own hands. Cincinnatus, Edmund Burke, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, Clay, Webster, and Silas Wright were farmers. Gov. Wright retired from public life, worth not more than \$15,-000, and earned his daily bread by laboring on his farm of about fifty acres. Mr. Webster was one of the best farmers in Massachusetts. Broken by the cares of State, he retired to his farm. Marshfield, to die. In his last days he would sit in his portico, in his farmer's clothes and broad-brimmed hat, looking out upon his noble oxen and cattle-upon his fields and his meadows, and upon the trees which he had planted with his own hands; turning his vision now and then towards the cemetry overlooking the stormy sea, where he knew he would sleep, and sleeping, "rest from his labors" while "his works would follow him." Jackson died in the shades of the Hermitage, upon the farm which with his own hands he had aided in reclaiming from the wilderness, and which he had so judiciously improved and so handsomely adorned. His last look was upon waving wheatfields, and lowing herds, and fertile meadows, and primitive forests streching away against the blue horizon; and his last words, next to those in which he commended his spirit to his Maker, were for the laboring classes-the farmers and mechanics of the country. "Be just to the people," said he, "and give them gold and silver for their labor, and not bank paper."

Our State, gentlemen, occupies a position upon the surface of the globe, and possesses a variety of temperature and of soil which fits it to produce all

fection, every article which is produced in the other States of the Union. Thus favored with climate and soil, and extending from Currituck to Cherokee five hundred miles, and one hundred and eighty miles in width at one point, with fifty thousand square miles of territory, and a population of not more than twenty to the square mile, a great and prosperous future is before her, if she will only prove true to herself. Her soil yields in perfection cotton, corn, wheat, buckwheat, barley, oats, rye, tobacco, rice, potatoes, peanuts, peas, beans, indigo-a plant native to the Carolinas, and which, if the war in India should be greatly prolonged, might be cultivated here with profit: rhubarb, sugar-cane, flax, hemp, all the grasses, grapes, with many other useful fruits, and many of the vegetables known elsewhere in the world. Her eastern forests abound in naval stores and timber of all kinds; and her western mountains with balsam fir, chestnuts, the maple tree, affording sugar, timber of all varieties, and gingseng, the Chinese plant of immortality, worth its weight in silver. She has mineral treasures of iron, of the "black band" iron ore, the only mine of the kind on this continent; of coal, granite, marble of all kinds and colors, sandstone both firm and flexible, gold, silver, bar lead and black lead, slate, soapstone, limestone, burrstone, copper, marl, gypsum, plaster, sulphur, salt, and precious stones. Wool can be grown with profit in nearly every County, while in some of the western Counties sheep-walks may be found equal to any in the world. For more than two hundred miles on her Southern border, reaching from Bladen to Henderson, the grape may be cultivated to prefection, producing wines superior to those of Longworth at Cincinnati, and which might be made to rival those of France and Germany; while on the seacoast the native Scuppernong grows spontaneously, the little County of Washington having contributed in 1849, six thousand of the eleven thousand gallons of wine returned in the census as having been produced within our limits. Our waterpower is inexhaustible, from the beginning of the rolling country to the Tennessee line; and in the East, where vast quantities of swamp lands are yet unreclaimed, and which might be most profitably added to the area of cultivation, steam could be employed for manufacturing purposes; -steam, which is the great agent in the hands of man for comprehending and mastering the physical, and rendering it useful; steam, which has enabled continent to speak to continent as State heretofore spoke to State -which has explored the snows of Russia, the burning sands of India and of Egypt-which roars on every ocean, and along our vast rivers from the falls of St. Anthony to the mouth of the great Gulf, worthy to be the outlet of half the world, bearing the wealth of the frozen regions to the tropics, and the rich and rare productions of the tropics to all lands; steam, which transports, hammers and planes, lifts, bores, propels, saws, grinds, and develops mineral wealth; steam, which pioneers the lightning, flashing and thinking for us along a thousand wires, condensing weeks into seconds of intelligence and enterprise; -such and so mighty is the agent bestowed upon us in these latter times, to subdue the physical, to lighten labor, to accelerate and brighten thought, and to improve, refine, exalt, and

magnify the condition of mankind. Our State, too, has a seacoast, which, though somewhat stormy and difficult, is yet equal to all her wants, if she will only crowd to it, and trade upon its outlets. Wilmington, near the sea, is a strictly North-Carolina town, and one of the most intelligent and enterprizing in any State; and Beaufort, on the sea, is looking up and looking forward to the high destiny which lies before her. Hundreds of miles of railroad already stretch away from these towns towards the West, and other lines of railway will be completed at an early period, thus uniting the Mississppi valley with our own ports, and affording the most direct route for the China and Eastern trade, which has enriched all nations that have been its

carriers or recipients. Yet, with all these resources and advantages, other States export to foreign markets nearly all our surplus products, and thus reap the benefit of handling them, and of exchange, which is gold and silver. South Carolina is credited in the federal commercial returns with \$12,698,891 of exports, Virginia with \$4,346,329, and North-Carolina with \$433,818! This is the showing we make before the world in our foreign exports; and yet our State bonds stood higher during the late commerical crisis than those of any other Southern State, and higher than those of Virginia by ten to fifteen cents in the dollar,the best tribute that could be offered to our integrity and honesty as a people. I have prepared with some care, from the census of 1850, a statement* of the staples and other articles produced in this State, in Virginia, and South-Carolina, during the year 1849, and also of the live-stock in each of these States at that time; from which it appears that the value of the staples, live-stock and other products of Virginia was \$99,218,601.81; that of North-Carolina, \$64,842,112.79; and that of South-Carolina \$58,740,-682 47. The wheat, corn, tobacco, rice and cotton of Virginia were worth \$38,186,096; of South-Carolina, \$29,069,842; and of North-Carolina, \$23,265, 644. In this estimate timber and naval stores are not included; and in this respect we know we have greatly the advantage of our sister States. The cotton crop of South-Carolina alone is worth \$12,000-000, affording further proof of the importance of suitableness of climate and of slave labor to the production of this staple. Virginia has 10,360 135 acres of improved land, or land in actual cultivation; and North-Carolina has 5,453,975; yet, though Virginia has twice the land in cultivation that North-Carolina has, and 552,622 more inhabitants, she lacks \$8,000,000 of doubling her in these staples, while our cotton crop is worth \$2,500,000 more than hers. She excels us mainly in wheat, her crop being worth \$11,000,000 and ours \$2,000,000. Our corn crop is worth \$7,000,000 more than that of South Carolina, but her rice crop exceeds ours by

We may safely assume-for we have no means of ascertaining the exact quantity-that three-fourths of our surplus productions are exported through the States of Virginia and South-Carolina, either coastwise or to foreign countries, by which we are constant losers, not only in profits to ship-owners and commission merchants, but in exchange, which is so valuable especially at a time like this. The population of Duplin, gentlemen, according

to the census of 1850, was 7,162 whites, 6,007 slaves,

and 345 free negroes-in all 13.514. The number of dwellings in the County was 1419, and of families 1419. In some of the old countries there are five or six families to a dwelling, but here every family has a house, and a home it can call its own. The number of improved acres of land-that is, in actual cultivation-is set down at 93,018, and of unimproved land at 334,030 acres. Much of this unimproved land might be reclaimed by ditching and draining and marling, thus adding to your productions and to the health of the inhabitants-though I have pleasure in saying I have nowhere seen a healthier or a heartier people than those now before me. Corn. which the census shows to be your leading crop, flourishes nowhere better than in our rich swamp and pocosin lands. The cash value of your farms is put down at \$1,407,443; value of farming implements and machinery at \$53,483. The number of horses is given in the census at 1945, worth \$116,700 -of mules 277, worth \$22,150. Edgecombe greatly exceeds Duplin in this useful animal, having 1122. worth \$89,760; but Duplin had 4,524 milch cows, two thousand more than Edgecombe, and worth \$67. worth \$12,390; other cattle 7,469, worth \$59,752; sheep 10,521, worth \$15,782; hogs 85,193, worth \$140,772. The wheat returned by the census of 1850, as produced in Duplin, is put at 3,037 bushels, worth \$3,037; rye 1,775 bushels, worth \$1,775; corn 372,530 bushels, worth \$223,518; oats 6.916 bushels, worth \$2,074; rice 101,302 pounds, worth \$4,052; tobacco 332 pounds, worth \$38; 461 bales of cotton, worth \$18,440; 16,854 pounds of wool, worth \$4,213; 49,746 bushels of peas and beans, worth \$36,609. Edgecombe produced more than double this quantity of peas and beans, showing their value for stock and the ultility of the pea as a fertilizer; but Duplin produced 258,097 bushels of sweet potatoes, more than Edgecombe by 66,000 bushels, and worth \$75,929. Irish potatoes, 5,710 bushels, worth \$4,872; 44,027 pounds of butter, worth \$6,604; 483 pounds of cheese, worth \$43 Her home made manufactures are returned at \$36,-435 in value, which is \$10,360 more than the 80th part of the home-made manufactures of the whole State, amounting to \$2,086,522. No eulogium is necessary upon the houswifery, the management, and the home industry which produced these manu-

the due proportion which Duplin bears in this respect to the other Counties of the State. The facts and figures speak for themselves.

According, therefore, to the census of 1850, the value of your slaves at \$500 each, of your improved farms and farming implements, and live-stock of all kinds, was \$4,899,826; and of the productions of your soil, and your home made manufactures, \$417,-093.78; making in all \$5,816,919.73. This takes no account of cash in hand, money at interest, household furniture, naval stores, or umimproved lands. A fair estimate of these, added to the sum just mentioned, would give \$800 to each white person in the County, which is fully equal to, if not above the amount per capita among the white peo-ple of the State, at the highest estimate of the value of the State, to wit, five hundred millions of dollars. These estimates for the three States mentioned and for your County, are based upon the census of 1850, which was taken eight years ago. I have no doubt

the State have increased twenty per cent, and some of her productions fifty to one hundred per cent. You have therefore, gentlemen, much in the past and the present to be proud of-to encourage you to further exertion and still greater improvements. You have benignant skies, a generous soil, fine tillable and grazing lands, and a market near at hand; and the display on this occasion, which we see around us, furnishes the strongest guarantee that your efforts in agriculture, in improving your stock of all kinds, in the mechanic arts, in domestic manufactures, and in all beautiful and useful handiwork,

that since that period the population and wealth of

will continue, and be crowned, hereafter as they are now, with gratifying and increasing success. But, as we have already seen, North Carolina makes the staples and other States export them largely, and get the benefit of them. We have suffered ourselves to become their agents-producers for their benefit nearly as much as for our own. We sell to them and take their current notes in most cases, bringing back little if any specie to add to our own circulation or to strengthen our Banks. They export for us to foreign countries, New York is our main importer; and Virginia, South Carolina, and Tennessee bank for us to a large extent; -and not content with this, some of these States refuse to take our paper currency, decry it, underrate it, and keep it below par. For sixty years we have contributed to build up Petersburg, Norfolk, Charleston, and other Virginia and South-Carolina towns; while our own seaports have been neglected, and Beaufort, the finest of all upon the Atlantic coast, has been communicated with from the interior until recently by a one horse weekly mail! Look, look fellow citizens, at our extent of territory, our varied and fertile soils, our staple products, our almost untouched mineral wealth, our position on the surface of the earth, our sweep of seacoast, and our means of commerce; and then say if North-Carolina ought not to be a great, a growing, a commanding, an "Empire State?" Our population is not more than twenty to the square mile. We could support six millions more of human beings in comfort and abundance. If our population were only equal to the square mile to that of Massachusetts, originally one of the most sterile States in the Union, it would reach 6,600,000; if equal to that of Great Britain, which has about the same area as North-Carolina, it would reach 16,000,000. Our great interest is that of Agriculture. -Of 140,000 persons of all occupations and professions returned by the Census of 1850, 80,000 are classed as farmers. Our leading staples are cotton, corn, wheat, rice and tobacco. So great is the demand for cotton that it is rapidly increasing; and if the federal government should succeed in its efforts to induce Great Britain and France to reduce their tariffs upon it, which now amount to more than the value of the entire crop exported from the United States-\$18,000,000-a still further stimulus will be given to its cultivation We can make corn, and wheat, and rice, and potatoes enough for our own use, and to spare; and we have the best labor in the world for agricultural purposes -mixed labor, that of the white freeman and the black slave. No panic, no commercial crisis affects slave labor. It is always at hand, can be always commanded, day and night, summer and winter, and

is always reliable. They are the best fed, the best clothed, and the happiest laboring population on the globe. Next winter it is estimated one million of mouths in the free States will be crying for bread. Hundreds of thousands of working-men, the bone and sinew of the North, have been driven from employment by the stringency and insolvency pervading nearly all departments of business; and these working-men, with their wives and children, must be fed for a time without charge, for they have nothing to pay, by those who are able to feed them, or they will starve. The great question in Paris is employment and bread for the masses; and revolutions -changes in government there are projected and achieved by hungry patriots, and because men are hungry. The same state of things threatens the Northern States of this Union. Large Cities, which Mr. Jefferson pronounced sores upon the body politic, and free society, so-called, are beginning to yield their fruits. But what slave among all the three millions in these Southern States, is suffering for bread? Not one. The white race, the master race, have not only the necessaries but the luxuries of life and the black race have not only enough in food and clothing, but something to waste, and luxuries also suited to their taste and fancy. We have no acres here covered with paupers-no soup-kitchens, surrounded by clamoring and starving hosts. But there, as the twilight deepens and darkness falls, and as the cold moon shimmers down upon the still colder pavements, and as those who have homes retire to them, the pale victims of poverty and want are seen, begging for a morsel to stay their hunger, and for shelter from the piercing wind-food and shelter, which are given to the brutes, but denied to them! And there also, every Sabbath, and sometimes thrice a week, the fashionable and the wealthy crowd to their splendid churches, in shining broadcloth and rustling silk, to worship the poor man's God !- to besiege Heaven with well-conned words and icy forms, vainly imagining, perhaps, that their prayers ascend above the resourding aisles or fretted domes, while their white brethren, the immortal images of the God they pray to, are "an hungered, sick, and in prison," with none to care for them; and while scores of ministers dilate upon the negroes' wrongs, and foment contention, hatred, and fratricidal war, careless of the want, and woe, and agony around them, which have clutched their very blood, their poor white neighbors, dooming whole multitudes to a condition more forlorn than any single slave in all these States ever heard of, much less endured. "Ye

serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell!" So long, gentlemen, as cotton, tobacco, rice and sugar are produced, so long will African slavery endure. It is founded in the nature of things, in the necessities of mankind, and is as fixed in all these Southern latitudes as the soil itself. It will remain where it is, and the surplus will seek new regions, just as the ocean remains within its old boundaries and other waters seek their level. I despise the fanatics, but do not fear them so far as the durability of the institution is concerned. They who fight against African slavery fight against cotton, tobacco, rice, sugar, corn, naval stores-against what feeds four millions of mouths in old England, two millions in New England and the other Northern States, and crowds the ships of both hemispheres with the best articles of commerce; they fight against Constitutions, and custom, and justice, and reason, and nathe Divine law. They fight in vain.

In addition to the muscle, the manhood, the intelligence, the foresight and the forecast, the inventive powers, and the agricultural, commercial, and mechanical knowledge and skill of the white race, we have this labor to aid us in bringing out our resources and in competing with other States in the production of the leading staples. What, then, is to hinder us in the career of improvement? We have the climate and soil, and the right kind of labor; we have seaports of our own; we have abundant facilities for manufacturing, and wide fields in-viting mechanical labor and skill. Every consideration of the past, the present, and the future, urges us to exertion. Our forefathers paved the way for us on these shores, levelling the forests and letting in the sun upon a thousand hills and vaileys. They reclaimed; we must cultivate. A double duty was imposed on them-that of felling the forests, of driving back the savages, of establishing society and free government, and at the same time of provid-ing for themselves and their families. They dropped one by one to their honored graves, as the covered has not yet passed the morning of its great-leaves drop in autumn, or as the ripe wheat falls ness and renown. What floods of light it will disbefore the scythe ; but their examples speak to us,

dren, as they were true to themselves and to us, and to be worthy of the great inheritance we have received at their hands. Let us be North-Carolinian in deed and in truth, as they were in their day and time. From the old Albemarle region, where the foot of the first Englishman was planted; from the Cape Fear and Alamance countries, where the bat. tles of the Revolution were begun; from Mecklen. burg, where our forefathers declared us free, and planned to make us so; from Moore's Creek, and Guilford Courthouse, and King's Mountain, and from the mountains further west, which poured down their "unnamed heroes" to the shock of war; from unnumbered places where they sleep, some of them sleeping where they fell in battle for the liberties we this day enjoy, that voice comes up to us, "s:ill and small," but with a potency which should reach, and stir, and influence every North-Carolina heart. Let us hearken to that voice. Let us resolve, in the first place, that we will stay where we are, by the bones of our fathers, under the protection of those free institutions which their valor won and their wisdom established; and secondly, that we will la. bor more than we have ever heretofore done to improve our condition. Let us cultivate not only the soil, but the minds of our children, and a spirit of State pride. Let us accustom ourselves to regard nothing in reason as impracticable or impossible when it is to be done for North-Carolina. We must learn practically, that there is no east, no west, no north, no south in our beloved State; but that she is one common State, ininterest, in action and in destiny, from her western limits to the sea, and from Virginia to South-Carolina. Let us foster and encourage our Common Schools. Let us continue to prosecute our internal improvements-not rashly, not extravagant. ly, not unwisely, but in a spirit of justice to all sec. tions, with reference to the laws of trade and commerce, and to the means which we can command from time to time; and let not those of us who have been favored in this respect, refuse the same favor to others. We should do as we would be done be and especially as we have been done by. We have the simplest, and as yet the cheapest government on earth. Those who leave this for other States, go as a general rule where the burdens of government are much heavier than they are with us; yet they make more than they do here, and these buildens are, therefore, comparatively light. By means of railroads, and lakes, and rivers, they find markets which were denied them here; they do not realize the depressing fact, as many of our farmers do, that it costs more to carry their crops to market than it does to make them. Means of communication with the markets of the world, and of cheap and rapid transportation to market, are of the first importance to the farmer. No farmer will make surplus produce when he knows he cannot sell it; and if he makes no surplus, but consumes all he produces, he must become poorer instead of richer, for he is exhausting his lands and getting but a mere living in return. Granville County now sows more wheat than she reaped before the Raleigh and Gaston Road was constructed; and the Central Road has already greatly stimulated production of all kinds in the Counties through which it passes and those contiguous to it. Forsyth, for example, whose people approach it by a plankroad eighteen miles in length, is doubling her wheat crop under this stimulus.-And you, gentlemen, have felt the benefits to a large extent of the Wilmington and Weldon Road. The same results will follow elsewhere. This, I know, is no favorable time for dwelling on this subject. The country has overbanked and overtraded. has not lived within its means, is embarrassed, and prices are falling. Money-that is, gold and silver -is becoming scarce. We are passing through a crisis which occurs about once in every twenty years; but we will come out of this, as out of former ones, with much useful experience, and better prepared for our duties as business men and as citizens. No country which produces indian corn in large quantities, as ours does, can be visited by famine; and no country which breads itself, and at the same time produces in perfection the staples of cotton, rice, sugar, and tobacco, can be long disturbed by financial disasters or money panics. The panic with us of the South will soon pass by, to be succeeded, I trust, by increased and increasing prosperity. But truth is truth, panic or no panic; and it is idle to talk of improving our condition, and making our State what she should be, without keeping constantly in view the importance of markets for our surplus products, and if the means of reaching those markets.

Let us labor, then, in every conceivable and honorable way, to increase our productions of all kinds -to turn our surplus products as much as possible to our own seaport towns-to export them ourselves, and to import for ourselves to as great an extent as we can. A foolish pride is disgusting both in individuals and in States; but there is a kind of pride which every indvidual and every State must have, who would be respected. Aside from all considerations of interest, North-Carolina should be too proud to depend on others to do for her what she can do for herself. As long as she permits other States to export her surplus products, and to import for her, just so long will she be dwarfed in her prosperity and hindered in her exertions to assume that posttion which she ought to occupy in the sisterhood of States. Her good name, fellow-citizens, her best interests, her substantial prosperity in agriculture, in the mechanic arts, in education, and internal improvements, are in the hands of her own people; and if they do not manifest a lively and constant concern for her welfare, who will? If they slumber, every thing valuable will be lost. If they falter, after having put their hands upon the helm, the ship of State must be driven on the breakers. If they hesitate and wait, others will not, but will pass on before us, and continue to drain us of our resources, leaving us at last to regret unavailingly the supineness which deprived us of that prosperity, and of those advantages and blessings which are now within our reach.

But, gentlemen, there is no real cause for despon-dency, or for indulging gloomy apprehensions as to the future. North-Carolina, as an integral portion of the federal Union, is relieved of the necessity and expense of maintaining an army and navy and of conducting intercourse with foreign nations. Thus happily exempted from large expenditures within, and protected from without by the ægis of the Union, she has nothing to do but to be faithful to the federal Constitution-to insist that others shall be faithful to it also; and to improve her condition .-This will be, as it is now, the circle and the chart of her duties so long as the Constitution and the Union shall endure; and every true patriot must hope that both may be immortal. And what a Confederacy it is!-stretching in a straight line in States and Territories from north to south through twenty-four degrees of latitude, and resting the pillars of its authority and power, in the east and in the west, of the shores of the two great oceans of the world; covering a whole continent embracing every variety of climate and soil, and holding up and holding fast to itself interests of the most diversified character, and the affections of the freest, the proudest, and the most self-reliant people on the globe. The territory of the Union now embraces an area of 3,413,000 square miles. It is ten times as large as Great Britain and France combined-three times as large as the whole of France, Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Holland and Denmark together; and equal in extent to the Roman empire when at the height of its dominion. Its population, including the Territories, is but eight to the square mile; if equal to that of Massachsetts to the square mile, it would be 425,000,000; and if equal to that of Great Britain, it would be 800,000,000. Its tonnage is now greater than that of England, the foremost commercial power on the globe; and its exports amount in value to \$360,000,0000 per annum, three-fourths of which are the products of Southern soil and slave labor. What a vast field is here offered to agricultural and commercial enterprise, and to all varieties of human industry and human skill! Who can set bounds to the progress, the power, and the influence of such a people among the nations of the earth?

That was a proud expression, worthy to shine for ever on his tomb-"Columbus has given a new world to the kingdoms of Castile and Leon." That haughty monarchy, which once moved in the front of European States, and whose banners flashed above the thrones of the Incas, the great City of the Aztecs, and the islands of the Southern sea, now hastens to decay, glutted with conquests and cankered with gold; but the "new world" which Columbus dispense when it reaches its meridian, we shall not live